



Tretinoin (Vesanoid®, All-Trans Retinoic Acid)

At the Clinical Center referred to as retinoic acid.

How Given: Orally (by mouth).

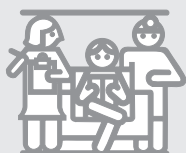
Drug Action: Retinoic acid is a naturally occurring substance found in food that may stop the growth of cancer cells.

Side Effects:

1. Skin and eye changes can occur. These changes include cracked lips, dry, itchy skin, dry eyes, and red, puffy eyelids.
2. Severe headaches and vision changes can occur while taking retinoic acid.
3. Mild nausea and vomiting can occur.
4. Bone pain, fever, and muscle weakness can occur.

**Special
Instructions:**

1. Take your retinoic acid capsules with a glass of milk or other food containing fat. Take your retinoic acid capsules immediately after removing them from the container. Do not expose the capsules to light.
2. For dry skin, use a moisturizing lotion or cream. If your eyes are dry, talk to your doctor or nurse about artificial tears. If you wear contact lenses, you may not be able to wear them while taking retinoic acid.
3. Patients must use birth control during and for 2 months after therapy with retinoic acid. Birth defects have occurred.
4. Call your NIH doctor or nurse if you
 - have severe headaches or vision changes
 - are unable to take your retinoic acid



This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Living with Cancer Chemotherapy Series
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National Institutes of Health, CC Nursing Department

Questions about the Clinical Center? OCCC@cc.nih.gov